

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 AID-05 OMB-01 DHA-02 /112 W

----- 124466

O 250207Z NOV 76

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1105

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

UNCLAS USUN 5619

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, BG, IN

SUBJ: BANGLADESH AND INDIA AGREE ON CONSENSUS STATEMENT ON
FARAKKA ITEM

REF: USUN 5544, USUN 5554

1. SUMMARY: FOLLOWING SURPRISE AGREEMENT BY BANGLADESH AND INDIA, GA SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE (SPC) NOV 24 APPROVED CONSENSUS STATEMENT ON FARAKKA ITEM TO BE RECOMMENDED TO GA PRESIDENT. ACCORDING TO STATEMENT PARTIES DECIDED TO MEET URGENTLY IN DACCA AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL FOR NEGOTIATIONS. THEY UNDERTOOK TO "GIVE DUE CONSIDERATION TO THE MOST APPROPRIATE WAYS OF UTILIZING THE CAPACITY OF THE UN SYSTEM." STATEMENT ADDS THAT "IT IS OPEN TO EITHER PARTY" TO REPORT TO 32ND GA ON PROGRESS ACHIEVED. SEVERAL DELS, INCLUDING US, EXPRESSED GRATIFICATION AT AGREEMENT REACHED BY PARTIES. END SUMMARY.

2. WHEN SPC CONVENED ONE HOUR BEHIND SCHEDULE ON NOV 24 TO DISCUSS ITEM ON DIVERSION OF GANGES WATERS AT FARAKKA, ACTING CHAIRMAN SIBAHI (SYRIA) ANNOUNCED CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN PARTIES
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WERE IN PROGRESS (SEE SEPTTEL) AND SUGGESTED ONE-HOUR RECESS.

WHEN SPC RECONVENED, ACTING CHAIRMAN READ FOLLOWING STATEMENT,
WHICH WAS ACCEPTED BY CONSENSUS:

"AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH THE PARTIES DIRECTLY CONCERNED
AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES ON ITEM 121 'SITUATION ARISING
OUT OF THE UNILATERAL WITHDRAWAL OF THE GANGES WATERS AT
FARAKKA' THE SPC RECOMMENDS THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE GA MAKE
THE FOLLOWING CONSENSUS STATEMENT:

'THE PARTIES AFFIRMED THEIR ADHERENCE TO THE DECLARATION
OF PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW CONCERNING FRIENDLY RELATIONS
AND COOPERATION AMONG STATES AND STRESSED IN THIS REGARD THEIR
UNALTERABLE COMMITMENT TO STRENGTHENING THEIR BILATERAL RELATIONS
BY APPLYING THESE PRINCIPLES IN THE SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES.

'BOTH PARTIES AGREED THAT THE SITUATION CALLED FOR AN
URGENT SOLUTION AND TO THIS END, PARTIES HAVE DECIDED TO MEET
URGENTLY IN DACCA AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH
A VIEW TO ARRIVING AT A FAIR AND EXPEDITIOUS SETTLEMENT.

'THE PARTIES ASSERTED THAT THE PRIME OBJECTIVE OF SUCH
INTENSIFIED CONTACT WAS TO PROMOTE THE WELL-BEING OF THEIR
PEOPLES AND AGREED TO FACILITATE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN
ATMOSPHERE CONDUCTIVE TO THE SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF THE
NEGOTIATIONS.

'THE PARTIES UNDERTOOK TO GIVE DUE CONSIDERATION TO THE
MOST APPROPRIATE WAYS OF UTILIZING THE CAPACITY OF THE UN
SYSTEM.

'IT IS OPEN TO EITHER PARTY TO REPORT TO THE GA AT THE
32ND SESSION ON THE PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN THE SETTLEMENT OF THE
PROBLEM."

3. FOLLOWING APPROVAL AOF CONSENSUS ACTING CHAIRMAN ANNOUNCED
THAT BANGLADESH HAD ASKED TO WITHDRAW DRAFT RESOLUTION IT HAD
SUBMITTED (A/SPC/31/L.8). SRI LANKA (KANAKARATNE), SPEAKING
ALSO AS CURRENT CHAIRMAN OF NON-ALIGNED GROUP, EXPRESSED
APPRECIATION FOR SPIRIT OF COOPERATION SHOWN BY BANGLADESH AND
INDIAN DELS. NOTING ROLE PLAYED BY NON-ALIGNED, HE EXPRESSED
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HOPE THAT PRECEDENT SET IN THIS INSTANCE WOULD BE FOLLOWED IN
OTHER SIMILAR CASES. HE NOTED OBJECTIVE THAT TWO PARTIES WILL
REACH FAIR AND EXPEDITIOUS SETTLEMENT AND SAID IT WAS UNDER-
STANDING OF NON-ALIGNED DELS THAT BOTH GOVTS HAVE AGREED TO
"VERY EARLY DATE" FOR DISCUSSIONS IN DACCA REFERRED TO IN
CONSENSUS AND THAT ANNOUNCEMENT OF DATE WOULD BE MADE FROM
THE TWO CAPITALS.

4. US (SOBER) MADE FOLLOWING STATEMENT: "THE US DEL IS DEEPLY PLEASED AND ENCOURAGED THAT THE PARTIES HAVE REACHED AGREEMENT HERE TODAY. THIS AGREEMENT IS CONSISTENT WITH OUR BELIEF THAT MISUNDERSTANDINGS WHICH MAY EXIST IN THE SOUTH ASIAN REGION CAN AND SHOULD BE DEALT WITH MOST EFFECTIVELY THROUGH THE GOODWILL AND COOPERATION AMONG THE VARIOUS PARTIES IN THE REGION. WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT BANGLADESH AND INDIA WILL NOW PROCEED WITH FRUITFUL AND SUCCESSFUL TALKS TO RESOLVE THE PARTICULAR ISSUE WHICH WAS BROUGHT BEFORE US HERE."

5. UK (MURRAY) ALSO EXPRESSED PLEASURE AT AGREEMENT AND PAID TRIBUTE NOT ONLY TO PARTIES BUT TO THOSE WHO HAD ASSISTED THEM IN REACHING AGREEMENT, ESPECIALLY EGYPTIAN AMB MEDUID. HE HOPED EFFORTS WOULD LEAD TO AGREEMENT THAT SERVED INTERESTS OF ALL CONCERNED. SAUDI ARABIA (BAROODY) WAS GREATLY HEARTENED AT AGREEMENT AND SUGGESTED, WITH GOODWILL ON BOTH SIDES, PARTIES MIGHT CONSULT TECHNICIANS "WHO ARE BETTER EQUIPPED THAN WE" TO HELP SOLVE PROBLEM. HE ASKED OTHERS TO FOLLOW GOOD EXAMPLE SET BY BANGLADESH AND INDIA.

6. CHAIR ANNOUNCED THAT, HAVING CONCLUDED WORK ON THIS ITEM, SPC WOULD RETURN TO ISRAELI PRACTICES ITEM AT NEXT MEETING, MONDAY, NOV 29.
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